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Photo Jean Philippe, O.M.I.  
Sister Pelagie, S.G.M., reads her first religious vows in her native Eskimo tongue.

## FIRST ESKIMO GREY NUN

by FRED GLOVER

CHESTERFIELD INLET, N. W. T. — The story of the first Eskimo woman to become a nun was told to this correspondent by a priest just returned from the Arctic.

Father G. Laviolette, of Winnipeg, returning from Chesterfield Inlet on Hudson Bay where he preached a retreat for Arctic missionary priests and nuns, told of witnessing the ceremony at which this child of the igloos embraced religious life.

Years ago Msgr. Turquetil, popularly known as the bishop of the Arctic, converted a young Eskimo Point native known as Okatsiar and his wife. They were given the baptismal names of Joseph and Cecile.

Among the children born to the couple was a girl named Pelagie, who was instructed by Father Kermel. Later, Joseph died, but his family was reared as Christians.

Five years ago, when a diph-

theria epidemic struck Eskimo Point, a former witch doctor attempted to induce his fellow tribesmen to revert to paganism. The Okatsiar family resisted his efforts.

One night he entered their igloo and attempted to raise the spirit of long-dead Joseph. Pelagie later told the story to missionary Father R. Courtemanche, adding that she felt called to the religious life.

The priest was touched with her sincerity. He spoke to his superior, Bishop M. Lacroix of Churchill, who sent the girl to the sisters at Chesterfield Inlet hospital. There she served two years postulancy and two novitiate.

She made her first vows before Bishop Lacroix in mid-February and took the religious name of Sister Pelagie. A special dispensation was obtained from the Pope permitting her to make her novitiate at Chesterfield Inlet. She now is a member of the Grey Nuns of Montreal.

## NEW INDIAN BILL PROPOSES CHANGES ON RESERVES

### Educational Rights Vindicated

OTTAWA. — A government bill aimed at providing a new charter for the 135,000 descendants of Canada's original Indian settlers was reintroduced Feb. 27 in the Commons.

The bill was almost identical with one proposed at the spring session of 1950, then withdrawn to permit Indians and others to study suggested changes. In the words of Citizenship Minister Harris, the bill contained "improvements", but little new from the 1950 version. Some amendments may be made before the legislation finally passes.

Mr. Harris met with 18 representatives of Indian organizations. The private talks continued until the end of the week.

It will mark the first time that a minister of the Crown has talked with Indians on legislation to affect them. The existing Indian Act has not been revised since the 1880's.

The 124-clause bill, given first reading by the Commons, is the result of several years' work. A parliamentary committee studied Indian affairs in 1946, 1947 and 1948 and many recommendations are contained in the legislation.

The new act would grant In-

dians greater control over their affairs. Harris said it would provide "ample authority" for giving Indians self-government in their band affairs.

It would empower the federal government to give band councils authority over their funds, though the government would retain control because it provides the money.

There would be some relaxation in the stiff regulations against Indians drinking liquor. The new act would permit the sale of intoxicants to Indians for consumption in a public place. However, this would not be proclaimed until it was requested by a particular province.

Provision would be made for federal-provincial agreements to deal with education of Indian children in association with other children.

A section important to western Indians would authorize the minister to permit Indians to dispose of grain and

(Continued on Page 8)

## QUEBEC PLANS TO MAKE INDIANS SELF-SUPPORTING

QUEBEC CITY. — Indians living in the northern district of Lake Mistassini soon will get their own municipality and run it themselves, according to a report in the Jan. 3 edition of *The Toronto Star*. The move was sponsored by game and fisheries minister Dr. Camille Pouliot.



Fr. Courtemanche, O.M.I.,  
Director of Chesterfield Mission.

The project was planned as part of a long-term program to rebuild for the Indians a 140,000-square mile fur trapping paradise. It would improve the living conditions of northern Quebec's 4,000 natives and at the same time bolster the province's natural fur production.

The fur trapping districts of northern Abitibi, Chibougamu, Temiscamingue and eleven other regions west of Hudson's Bay and south of Ungava Bay would be returned to the province as the present concessions lapse under the scheme.

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# INDIAN RECORD

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Babine, B.C.,  
January 26, 1951

The I.M.R. has repeatedly warned the Catholic natives of Canada that some officials of the Indian Affairs Branch are trying to rob them of their right to a Catholic education for their children.

On November 30, 1950, Mr. R. F. Davey, regional inspector of Indian schools for B.C., has directed a circular to all teachers which contains the following paragraphs:

Some of the Catholic schools are using the Faith and Freedom series as basic readers for Grades 1 and 2. In future all schools, Catholic and Protestant, will use the Curriculum Foundation series in Grades 1 to 3 and the Canadian Parade readers in Grades 4 to 6, inclusive. Any Catholic school not using this series should requisition for them now and place the word "Urgent" at the head of the requisition. The Faith and Freedom series will be used as supplementary readers when the new series is received.

The Department has decided that in schools where religious instruction is given, the school day will be lengthened by the amount of time devoted to religious instructions, unless local conditions prevent this. Should your school be unable to lengthen the school day by the equivalent time, the Superintendent of your Indian Agency should be informed, so that the possibility of overcoming local difficulties may be thoroughly explored.

The first paragraph quoted does away with Catholic books in our schools, and replaces them with books devoid of all religious notions. It is true that Catholic books are still permitted, but only as "supplementary readers"; since the other books are quite enough for a full course of studies, the chances are that little use will be made of supplementary books; and so,

after a few years, the requisition of such books will probably be forbidden by another circular. We shall then have the contradiction of "Catholic" schools forced to teach from a set of entirely pagan books. In fact, the attempt is already made to put us in such a ridiculous position; and it will succeed, unless we have the courage to resist its arbitrary injustice.

The second paragraph quoted, contains an attack more grievous yet against our Catholic teaching; it commands that religious instruction be given outside of usual school-hours. As if our religious teaching did not possess a real educational value! And as if it did not possess a much-needed moral influence!

This imposes a longer schedule upon teachers, lengthening the works of a day that seems hard enough as it is to anyone with practical experience of Indian schools. This also relegates the teaching of religion to a period during which the attention of the pupils frazzles out and their capacity of learning is at a low ebb.

The Catholic Indian people have requested in numerous petitions the right of keeping a Catholic education for their children, because in conscience they feel a duty to bring their children up in Christian knowledge and dignity.

Yet, this popular wish and duty is summarily discarded by the autocratic formula: "The Department has decided..." No man of foresight can fail to understand the danger to freedom of religious teaching, and the ominous portent of such decisions.

O. De Keyzer, O.M.I.

## MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION of MARY IMMACULATE

With the excellent cooperation of the students of Western Canadian Indian Schools, we are now in a position to bring to the readers of the Indian Missionary Record monthly reports of the activities of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate at the points where it is established.

At the present time, the M.A.M.I. has eight sections in four provinces: Fort Frances and Kenora, Ont.; Fort Alexander, Man.; Lebret, Lestock, S. Philippe and Duck Lake, Sask., and Hobbema, Alta.

The Association organizes the students in groups, holding regular meetings. These meetings are guided and encouraged by a monthly Bulletin issued by the Provincial Center of the Association at 315 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface.

The purpose of this column is to report the activities of the various sections of the M.A.M.I. Lack of space, unfortunately, precludes the publishing of all matter sent in, but the editors will do their utmost to give adequate representation to all sections.

## Impressive Ceremony at Lebret

(Special Correspondence by Linda Anaquod and Clive Linklater)

LEBRET, Feb. 17, 1951 —

An impressive ceremony was held here on the occasion of the Feast of the Approbation of the Rules of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, when a number of pupils of the Lebret Indian School were initiated as second degree members of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate.

The candidates entered the chapel to the strains of the hymn "Immaculate Mary". Fr. L. Laplante, O.M.I., the Provincial Director of the M.A.M.I., invited Rev. Father Piche, O.M.I., to preside at the initiation ceremony. Our local Director, Father Dumont, O.M.I., presented the Associates to Fr. Principal, and he in turn addressed the Associates. "As the sacraments are steps in each Catholic's life," he said, "so also there are steps that members must climb as they progress in the different degrees of the Association. He made it clear that the Association expects that the members fully lead a Christian life, that they disregard all dangers in going about their missionary work and that they be ready to accept responsibilities, regardless of the circumstances.

Following the hymn "O Heart of Jesus", Charles Bellegarde explained the background of the Association's emblem, and why the shield was dark blue. The Cross was then affixed on the shield, the appropriate explanations being given by Kenneth Goodwill. During the hymn "O Heart of Mary", a white lily was fastened on the Crucifix by Rose Alma Mellegarde, who also interpreted the significance of this emblem. The letters M.A.M.I. were individually placed on the emblem and their meaning explained by Associates.

Father Dumont then spoke a few words, followed by Father Principal's explanation of the work and needs of the Missionary Association. The candidates



Fr. Piché gives the insignia.

then made their solemn promises as follows: (a) to help one another, to live as good Christians, and to follow the directives of the Association; (b) to worthily wear the insignia of the Association; (c) to help the missions confided by the Church to the Oblate Missionaries; (d) to be faithful servants and imitators of the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

## ST. PHILIP'S

This Indian Residential School was visited on October 15, 1950 by the Provincial Director and the section of the Association was formed on Nov. 21. The latest report from there was received on Feb. 21, from Mary Bernice Severight, a team captain, who writes in part: "The time allowed to prepare our work as Captain and to work on lessons with our Team is not long enough... more time should be allowed on the subject matter of the Bulletin shortened."

## FORT ALEXANDER

The Provincial Director visited this point early in February and had meetings with the Sisters and Fathers. Sections are being organized in four groups: senior and junior, for boys and girls.

## DUCK LAKE

There was a second degree reception there on February 15. Father Mercure, Director for Alberta conferred the degree.



## Saanich News

On January 17-18, Our Lady of the Cape, Queen of the Rosary, was venerated by the people of Saanich in the parish church of the Assumption. In the congregation which attended the evening service, were more than 80 Indians from the Saanich Indian Mission.

Rev. Father Plaisance, O.M.I., who directs the pilgrimage of Our Lady throughout Canada, gave an instruction on the history of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape and recalled the urgent invitations of Our Lady to prayer and sacrifice. His sermon was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Philip Paul was one of the altar boys.

After the Benediction, the perpetual Rosary was started and for the next three hours the church remained nearly full with people reciting the Rosary. Many availed themselves of the occasion to receive the sacraments.

The next morning, Masses were said from 7:00 to 9:00. The last Mass was sung by Rev. Fr. D. Williamson, S.M.M., pastor of the Assumption Parish. Thomas Samson, David Paul, Martin Cooper, Jr., and Edward Paul were the altar boys. The Saanich Indian School choir sang the Mass of the Angels. During the rest of the day the school children and mothers with their little ones came in turn to pray to Our Lady. More than 100 Indians renewed their consecration to Our Lady and asked for special favours.

The new three-room consolidated school is progressing rapidly. It is hoped that it will be completed in a few months. It is situated on the West Saanich Indian Reserve. But it will accommodate the children of all four Saanich Reserves. Plans for the opening are being made. Besides the official opening and blessing, there will be a concert, given by the school children and the C.Y.O. At the same time the graduation of four pupils, completing their eighth grade, will take place.

## ERMINESKIN SCHOOL

Hobbema, Alta.

Three radio broadcasts have originated from Ermineskin school, through CHFA, Edmonton, the programs being under the direction of Father G. M. Latour, Principal.

The school publication, "Moccasins News", has been resumed after a few years; editorial staff: Miss Doreen Buffalo, Miss Lena Smallboy.

Bro. Guibert, printer of "Kichitwa Miteh", the Cree syllabic monthly, for over 30 years, left for the St. Agathe (P.Q.) sanatorium. Here is wishing him prompt recovery.



Grandiose winter scenery on the Arctic shores of Northern Canada.

## St. Mary's School Newsletter

Cardston, Alta.

**Newcomers and visitors.** We welcome as a new member of the staff, Mr. Therence, who is now assistant supervisor of the Senior Boys. Bro. Morin, O.M.I., also returned to us as supervisor of the Senior Boys during the course of January.

Bro. Kael, O.M.I., has come to St. Mary's where, during his stay, he is making improvements in various rooms and halls by his wonderful ability as carpenter.

Father Chevrier, O. M. I., principal of the Indian School at Duck Lake, Sask., visited here in January.

Corporal Macleod, from Medicine Hat, was here for the inspection of our cadets on Jan. 15.

**Birthdays.** Bro. Tom Morkin, O.M.I., celebrated his 80th birthday on Feb. 8. Brother Tom, as he is better known to most of us, spent 28 years of his religious life at Dunbow Mission, 7 years at Brocket, and 23 years at St. Mary's School.

A birthday party was given in honor of our five students who have reached their 16th birthday and continue to attend school.

A concert was held on Feb. 13 in honor of Mr. Regan, Agent of the Blood reserve, on the occasion of his birthday. The children of the school enjoyed a holiday in his honor.

**Mumps.** Though an epidemic of mumps broke out among the pupils of the school, the number of cases were few, the duration of the epidemic short and the cases mild.

**Games and amusements.** St. Mary's Juveniles met the Macleod Juveniles in a hockey game played at Macleod recently. The score was 5-2 in favor of the opponents.

The interior of the gymnasium

has recently been completed and baskets have been installed. Now, regular games of basketball provide fun and exercise for both boys and girls.

Additions have been made to the list of amusements in the various departments, as follows: dolls, balls, skipping ropes, sleds, a small wooden slide for indoors and a larger one for outdoors (Junior girls); a game of table hockey, a crokinole board, ring-toss games, pick-up-sticks and sleds (Junior boys); table hockey, crokinole board, a number of sleds and an eight-foot shuffle board (Senior girls); a sixteen-foot curling table (Senior boys).

Shows are given regularly on Saturday evenings. Recently "The Count of Monte Christo" was on the screen.

Our newly acquired recording machine is now used to send regular messages to relatives of our people at Camsell Hospital. Since the Camsell Hospital also own a similar machine, we can also receive recordings from patients there. Both senders and receivers appreciate the service.

The Senior boys of St. Mary's School are now receiving regular weekly lessons in woodwork from Mr. Fred Weiler of Cardston.

## CROSS LAKE CO-OP. EXPANDS

The 20 Treaty Indians who, three years ago, established their own theater and later a cash and carry grocery store at Cross Lake, Man., have now undertaken a third co-operative business — that of wood cutting.

Two wood-sawing machines were bought last year, one of which will be used to make lumber for buildings.

## INDIAN CONCERT

An Indian concert was presented at the W.I. Hall, Brentwood, at Christmas time. Pupils of the Indian schools on the East and West Saanich Reserves entertained a large and appreciative audience with a play, "Santa Has the Measles" and four beautiful tableaux, "The Annunciation", "The Shepherds", "The Magi" and "The Nativity".

Narrators were Doreen Olsen, Lavina Paul and David Paul. Carols and hymns were sung by the school choir during the presentation of the tableaux.

Among the distinguished guests of the evening were Bishop J. Hill, of Victoria, and Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C., M.P.

Introducing the players, Rev. Fr. X. Lauzon extended his thanks to the guests for their attendance at the concert presented by the Indian children. He also expressed his gratitude to the children's teachers, who had devoted much time and effort to the successful presentation of the entertainment.

### Transportation

When the children taking part had to be collected from three points, from one-half to five miles distant from one another, voluntarily transported by cars and returned, he said the difficulties faced by the teachers, who are members of a religious order, are seen! Rev. Fr. Lauzon also thanked the parents for their co-operation in sending the children to school regularly, and stated that attendance records were very high.

Bishop Hill spoke briefly of his pleasure in the entertainment and expressed his appreciation of the works of the Nuns, assuring the audience that the same effort and excellent results were shown in the work that was being done in the class rooms.

General Pearkes expressed the opinion that religion should be an integral part of education—that without religion as a foundation, no true education was possible.

## NORTHERN TRAPPING POOR

The Summerberry area reports show that there is a great decrease in the number of muskrats in the Saskatchewan delta; this is compensated by existing high prices and the increased number of beaver throughout the North; meanwhile the caribou herds are in the neighbourhood of Cross Lake, thus depriving the Brochet area from its staple food supply.

A widespread decline of the muskrat population is reported throughout Western Canada.





The new Catholic Indian Youth Center at Maniwaki, P.Q., where 600 Algonquins live. 60 pupils attend the two day-schools located on the Reserve.

## Construction of New Indian School at Saanich

Before an enthusiastic group of residents of the West Saanich area Martin Cooper, prominent councillor of the Tsartlip Indians, turned the first sod in the construction of the new consolidated Indian school on December 15.

He performed the ceremony on behalf of the chief of the Tsartlip Reserve, Joe Bartleman, who was unable to attend.

### A Better School

Speaking on behalf of the Indians, Chris Paul said: "I am pleased to be present at this occasion of our being given a new school — not only a new school, but a better school."

The congratulatory addresses were made in the schoolroom after the ceremony was completed. Mrs. M. Hamilton, president of the Brentwood P.-T.A., and Mrs. A. Burdon, past president of the same organization, were among the speakers. Marcel Jutras, from the Indian office at Duncan, gave a brief outline of the proposed construction. Fr. X. Lauzon, of the Indian R.C. Mission, who has been responsible for much of the spade-work in the provision of the school, introduced the speakers.

The addresses were followed by the presentation of a message from the Indians to General Pearkes and Mr. Jutras. Chris Paul and student Doreen Olsen made the presentations.

The new school site is situated on the west Saanich Road, adjacent to the existing one-room school. It will measure approximately 151 feet long by 47 feet wide. Consisting of three classrooms, teachers' room, store-room, furnace room, vocational training section and covered play area. The cost will be about \$45,000.

Children don't grow uniformly throughout the year—practically all growth occurs in September-October.

## MOBERT INDIANS OPPOSE NEUTRAL EDUCATION

The "Katonik Enagamigak" reports that an enthusiastic meeting held on Oct. 15, under Chief Clem Onabigon voiced its strong opposition to Section 114, Part 2, of the proposed Indian Act (Bill 267), which in an innocent guise paves the way for Catholic children to be sent to provincial schools and hence deprive them of their God-given rights to a thoroughly Catholic education in Catholic schools, which has been guaranteed until now in the old Indian Act.

"The evils of Godless instruction," continues the report, "which obtains in the public schools are too manifest to need enumeration here and our Moberg Indians are to be warmly congratulated on being so alive

## Indian Youths are Air-minded

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. — Fifty Indian boys who once watched and wondered as "mechanical birds" droned over their northern Saskatchewan settlements, now are learning what makes the featherless birds tick.

They are the first of their race to join the air cadets. The air-minded Indian boys, sharp and smart in their uniforms, turn out each week with the Prince Albert squadron.

"They are interested in mechanics and seem to love to tinker with aero engines," said Sqdn. Ldr. Jack Amos, officer commanding the Prince Albert squadron. "They're quick and snappy in their drill, too."

The boys are students at All

## 39 High School Pupils at Lebret

The Lebret Indian Residential school has 39 registered High School pupils, of whom 19 are in Grade 9, 8 in Grade 10, and 12 in Grade 11. The Senior girls attend the town Public High School and all of them (2 in Gr. 11 and 5 in Gr. 10) are consistently at the top of their respective classes. The other pupils attend school at the Lebret Residential building where a staff of three is entirely devoted to their instruction.

### D.V.S. Broadcasts

The first D.V.S. broadcast was made Feb. 22. The Cadets prepare material and practice pronunciation before broadcast time; top-notch Morse code sender is Kenneth Goodwill.

### Pageant of Canada Staged

The Grades 3 and 4 room produced a Canadian pageant of industry, science, education, religion and armed services; carried by a colorful cast it was well worth the effort made to bring forth Canada's growth. A queen (Anita Dumont) dressed in a red gown trimmed with maple leaves, represented Canada.

### Amateur Show

On Jan. 21 an amateur night, sponsored by the Missionary Association, netted \$138.48. Art Obey was M.C.; the program was recorded.

### Hockey News

The hockey schedule at Lebret Indian School is quite interesting. On January 8 the school boys beat Melville Generals 16-1 at Balcarres; Richard Poitras claims 6 scores to his credit. On the 11th Lebret played the Melville Monarchs, outplaying them brilliantly. Lebret outshot Melville 57-27. On the same day Lebret won a 6-5 decision over Cupar, at Cupar, Sask.

The school Juveniles, Bantams

to the peril and so prompt to take what measures they could to offset it."

and Midgets made an excellent showing in the Saskatchewan circuits. The Bantams dropped out after heavy losses to Yorkton, while the Midgets bowed to the Regina Pats in the Southern semi-finals. The Juveniles outscored Moosomin 22-2, giving them a favourable lead in the series.

### Boxing

In a card program held at the Lebret Legion Hall, January 19, Raymond Piapot won a decision over Alvin Cyr, after the third round. Clifford Tawiyaka lost a decision by one point to Lorne Proud, Melville's 115-pounder, after three rounds of close and thrilling fighting.

## Blue Quill News

St. Paul, Alta.

Since the children are back from their Christmas Holidays, the Blue Quills Junior Hockey Team played two games against the St. Paul High School in the new St. Paul Arena. The first game was ended with a score of 4-4. But the second game was a victory for the Blue Quills Juniors, with a score of 4-2.

Our Pee-Wees had also the opportunity of exercising their skill against the St. Paul Pee-Wees. They lost the first game 3-4, but they beat their opponents by a score of 4-2 in a second game at Blue Quills School.

### Poster Contest

In the Alberta Antituberculosis Poster contest, the boys won awards amounting to \$24 distributed as follows: Grade 5: David McGillivray, first prize; Charlie Wood, second prize; Grade 6: Alphonse Delver, first prize; Grade 7: Herman Cardinal, third prize; Grade 8: Alex Jansevier, second prize; Eric Cardinal, third prize.

According to the Contest Editor, "the caliber of the work was very good, indeed!"

### Visitors

Lately, Blue Quills was honoured by the visit of Father Chevrier, O.M.I., Principal of Duck Lake School, Father Lamfrance, O.M.I., Principal of Cardston School, and Father Charron, Principal of Cluny School. Fr. Latour, former principal of Blue Quills also paid us a visit.

(P. H. Lonnais, O.M.I., Correspondent)

## CHARTER BUS FOR CHURCH SERVICES

At Lake Helen, Ont., Father O'Flaherty chartered a bus to bring his people to church on Jan. 7, with wonderful results at High Mass on that day the church was filled and 51 persons received Holy Communion.

Socials are being held each month to raise funds to pay for chartered bus service.



## Cecilia Jaffray Wins Tournament

Defeating Sioux Lookout Black Hawks in the final game of a five Indian Residential Schools hockey tournament, held at the Thistle Rink Feb. 23-24, Cecilia Jaffray Indian School won the honours, going through the round-robin and playoffs without a defeat.

The well balanced Sioux Lookout team who went down twice to the huskier Cecilia Jaffray pucksters, nevertheless made a splendid impression with their fine hockey, good positional play and never-say-die spirit, and on a good sheet of ice might have come closer to the honours.

Each team played four games on the 23rd in the round-robin, with slow sticky ice hampering the youngsters. Cecilia finished the day's play on top with three wins and one draw. Sioux Lookout was second with three wins and one loss, McIntosh third with one win, two draws and one loss for four points, St. Mary's fourth with one win, one draw and two losses for three points. The small but plucky Fort Frances youngsters battled gamely but just couldn't win a game.

In the semi-finals, Feb. 24, Sioux Lookout took a 4-1 lead at the start, but McIntosh made a fighting come-back and lost by a 4-2 score. Cecilia Jaffray found their old rivals St. Mary's tough opposition, and won by the only goal scored.

### Finals

Cecilia took a 5-1 lead in the first period of the finals against Sioux Lookout, seeming to get the feel of the ice more quickly and shooting forward passes to get in close on the Sioux goal. Mandamin with two and W. Price with three goals were scorers.

The second period ended 8-4 with Sioux staging a come-back, each scoring three goals. Mandamin for Cecilia, and Carpenter and Wesley for Sioux were goal-scorers. Mandamin again netted in the third, and Sioux got two more by Henry Spence and A. Carpenter.

The tournament was a huge success with the boys, between sixty and seventy in number, displayed keen enthusiasm and real ability, and it is hoped that arrangements can be made to make it an annual event in future years.

School Principals, Norman Patterson, Indian Agent, and C. Clark of the Indian agency were responsible for the excellent arrangements.

## SETON LAKE, B.C.

A terrific snow storm isolated Seton Lake for several days at the end of January. Four feet of snow fell in one day. The P.G.E. Ry. suspended operations for a whole week. The thermometer went down to 14 below. No one suffered from the cold; ample provisions were at hand and every one weathered the storm without undue hardships.

(A.T.B., Cor.)

## Sandy Bay News

Supt. Staunton, clerk Nicholson and Assistant R. Guillas are to be congratulated for the progress made recently on the Sandy Bay reserve; new homes, more numerous garden, expansion of farm lands, a new 3½-mile road to serve the reserve, are among the improvements made in the course of the past year.

At a recent band meeting councillors Jim Desjarlais and Adélard Houle have been elected, thus bringing to six the number of council members.

A box social was held recently which netted \$92.00; this money was distributed among the Sandy Bay patients in the Sanatoria and hospitals.

### Hockey News

During the month of February Sandy Bay Midgets played and won the following games: St. Pierre (6-3), Otterburne (8-3), St. Boniface Juniorate (5-4), Portage All-Stars (9-2), Langruth (5-3), Gladstone (11-2), Alonsa (8-3).

Then they met with the powerful Sturgeon Landing team (champions of the North with two wins over The Pas, 13-4 and 10-2) and lost a game to them 4-5. Sturgeon's outstanding sportsmanship and technique had been previously demonstrated in Winnipeg (River Heights beaten 6-1) and in Selkirk (tie game 5-5) on February 27.

## EDITS CREE MONTHLY

Father R. Levert, O.M.I., is the new editor of "Kitchiwa Miteh", a Catholic monthly published in Cree syllabic, at Hobbema, Alta. The magazine which was founded in 1906 by Father Balter, at Saddle Lake, Alta., was then published at Hobbema since 1918, with the late Fr. Moulin as editor until his death in 1950. Then the publication had over 3,000 subscribers in Northwestern Canada, the James Bay area and in Montana.

The very first publication for Indians had been founded in 1895 by Fr. Z. Lizée, O.M.I.; it was called the "Echo of Lac Ste-Anne" and it contained articles in French, English, Cree and Assiniboine, printed in Roman, Cree syllabic and stenographic characters.

The "Kitchiwa Miteh" (Sacred Heart) is published monthly at Hobbema, Alta., subscriptions can be sent to Fr. Levert, at that address. Also for sale at Hobbema are Cree syllabic hymn and catechism books, also a number of Cree recordings.



The classy 1951 Ermineskin hockey team, Hobbema, Alberta.

## Joe Highway Wins 140-Mile Race

A treaty Indian from Brochet, Man., Joe Highway, romped home ahead of 14 other dog mushers at The Pas, Feb. 16, to win the money in the 1951 Canadian open championship dog race.

Highway, a 43-year-old trapper, drove his eight huskies over the rugged 140 mile course in 16 hours 49 minutes and 50 seconds.

First three spots in the race went to treaty Indians. A little more than 11 minutes behind Highway was Bill Beady, 25, a Grand Rapids fisherman. Beady's time for the two 70 mile laps between The Pas and Cranberry Portage was 17 hours 1 minute and 5 seconds. Third prize of \$400 went to a 32-year-old trapper from Cedar Lake, McLeod George.

Highway will get \$1,000 and the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting trophy, making him king of the dog mushers. Beady, the second prize winner, gets \$700.

Sixth team to cross the finish line was driven by Harold McLeod, 35, a trapper from Cross Lake. Seventh man was treaty Indian, David Brightnose, 23, of Granville Lake, driving a team belonging to Alphonse Bighetty. Gordon Paranteau, 33-year-old Indian fisherman from Grand Rapids was eighth.

## PROGRESS IN B.C. EDUCATION

The number of Indian pupils attending school in B.C. has now reached 5,600, as compared to 4,000 in 1947; teaching staff has increased from 113 to 165. High School students number 250 in 1951, whereas there were only 23 in 1947. Eight students are at University level, 3 in Normal school and 5 are taking nursing.

Over-all attendance has also greatly improved; from the 54% figure shown in 1937-38; in 1948-49 it jumped to 85% and it is even much higher this year, according to a report issued by Mr. R. F. Davey, regional inspector of Indian schools.

## Catholic Indian High School Opened at Kamloops

The new eight-room high school building recently constructed at Kamloops, B.C., was officially opened by Mr. R. F. Davey, Regional Inspector of Indian schools for B.C., on November 15. The present registration is 54 pupils.

High school courses were given for the past four years in the main building of the Kamloops residential school. The new classrooms are supplemented by a chemistry laboratory and a domestic science room. The new structure is a two-storey building thoroughly modern in construction and equipment.

Already the largest Indian school in Canada, Kamloops now offers the best of modern facilities for secondary education to Indian youth within a radius of more than 300 miles in the interior of B.C. The new building is the fulfillment of the dream of Father F. O'Grady, O.M.I., director of the Kamloops school, to provide the natives with facilities for higher education.

Graduates from the Kamloops High School are showing promise for the future; one of them is studying pedagogy at the Vancouver Normal School.

After revealing Himself to the poor shepherds our Blessed Lord disclosed his coming to the wealthy Kings of the East. Men of means they were, indeed; yet they were truly poor in spirit. They were detached from wealth, and attached to Christ. Having found Him they gave richly of their possessions.





The Fort Alexander Mission was established in 1876, near the mouth of the Winnipeg River, Manitoba.

## Fort Alexander Newsletter

DECEMBER 8

The feast of our Immaculate Mother marked the reception of nine new members in the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Ruest, Principal, gave us a practical sermon on the occasion.

In the evening all the members of the Sodality were entertained at a banquet. At 7:30, the Seniors and Juniors assembled in the Tekakwitha Hall where all spent a most enjoyable evening in company of the Staff.

Laurina Bruyère (Grade 8).

### CHRISTMAS

We had two Midnight Masses this year; one in our parish church and another in the school chapel. Both places were well filled up, the decorations and singing were lovely. And what was still more impressive . . . a great number of faithful came to worship the Sweet Babe of Bethlehem not only in His Crib, but received Him in their hearts.

After Mass we had the usual luncheon which we all enjoyed. We were permitted to leave for home after the 11 o'clock Mass where we enjoyed two weeks' vacation.

On Jan. 7 we were all back on time to attend the High Mass celebrated in our chapel by our Principal. The same evening we had our Christmas Tree, and useful and beautiful gifts. Our sincere thanks to all who have contributed to our happiness.

Violet Guimond (Grade 8).

### SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Under the guidance of the Fathers and Sisters we have several other sporting activities worth mentioning. The boys have now good boxing gloves given to them shortly before Christmas and are learning the technique, hoping that they will be able to figure in boxing matches with boys of other centers. We are also taking physical culture, three hours a week, from well-qualified instructors, both for boys and girls.

Music lessons are given by Fr. Plamondon to boys and girls of various reserves.

The girls belonging to the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary meet regularly each week, while the boys have Scout and Cub meetings. Rev. Plamondon, attending to the latter, does

much to contribute to the temporal and spiritual welfare of all.

### A BEAUTIFUL DAY

Jan. 21 is a day that we shall long remember. Being the patronal feast of our Sister Superior, we all assembled in the Senior room, where each class presented a special programme.

On the 25th, Sister Superior from Power-View sent a kind invitation to all the girls and Sisters, as her pupils had prepared a concert which was to be given in honor of our Superior. The trip to Power-View was a jolly one indeed. Father Principal, was, as usual, our "taxi driver". But who can ever figure the size of our taxi! Why, it could contain at least thirty girls. But to our surprise we were in for a lovelier afternoon than we had expected. There was a drama entitled "The Martyrdom of Saint Agnes," which was grand.

Viola Guimond (Grade 8).

### Hockey News

**Hockey News.** Fort Alexander Senior team played the Power-View Seniors, the score being 3-4.

Dec. 16—The Bantams of Leonard School, Power-View, played Fort Alexander's Bantams, but received a 9-2 lacing. They were amazed by the end-to-end rushes of Romeo Courchene, but took their losses as good sports.

Jan. 11.—Today marks a defeat for the Fort Alexander Senior team, Lac-du-Bonnet young men scoring a 6-4 victory.

Jan. 15.—The Fort Alexander Bantams played the Pine Falls Bantams at the Arena. The latter were outclassed, the score being 10-0.

Jan. 18.—The Fort Alexander Senior team defeated Beausejour team 6-5.

Jan. 20.—Pine Falls Bantams tried their luck again, but we came out victorious by winning on home ice 7-0.

Jan. 21.—Three cheers for our Fort Alexander Senior team! They played the Point-du-Bois young men at Power View, scoring an 8-2 victory.

Jan. 26.—Our Principal took us out at Power-View this afternoon where we played against the Bantams, the latter were defeated 10-3.

## Crowfoot School News

Cluny, Alta.

### New Sisters

Four new sisters arrived at the Crowfoot School during the summer holidays. Sr. Praxedes took charge of the kitchen; Sr. Dominic Mary is teaching Grade 3; Sr. Angela is teaching the kindergarten, and Sr. Flavius took charge of the dairy.

### Milking Machine

Father Principal bought a milking machine, which saves a lot of work for the employees, and made the boys happy since they no longer have to get up at 6 o'clock to go and milk.

### Vocational Training

All the Junior High girls follow a course in Home Economics and Physical Training, while the boys from Grades 6 to 9 take woodwork, Cadet Training and Physical Training.

### Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert took place on Dec. 21 in the presence of several visitors, Mr. Pugh, Superintendent of the Blackfoot Agency, Dr. J. D. Riopel, and several nurses from the Blackfoot Indian hospital, and the parents of nearly all the pupils were also present.

At the close of the concert old St. Nick arrived from the North Pole and came in shivering and dancing. I guess there was a blizzard up there!

### Christmas

Midnight Mass was celebrated at two places: one at Crowfoot School and the other at the Blackfoot Coal Mines. Both churches were full to capacity, and also both choirs sang with love and fervour.

The missionary's heart was touched at the thought that his people were once more men of goodwill.

### Champions

For the past month the main interest lies in the Big Four Hockey League. Four teams have participated in the struggle to get in the winner's circle, I should say that three teams have struggled to give Crowfoot a defeat. The fast-skating, hard-hitting Crowfoot team were not to be put down by defeat. They started their journey to the top by first meeting Old Sun and trouncing them by a 7-1 count. A return game found the lowly Old Sun team on the wrong end of a 6-1 score sheet.

In the meantime the Bassano team were victorious against the Gleichen team. On January 14 Crowfoot travelled to Bassano to meet this team, which everyone was predicting would end up as the winner.

Crowfoot really had their teeth sharpened and after a saw-saw battle it came out on top by a 7-5 score.

The following Thursday was to be a return game at Crow-

foot. A very nice crowd gathered to see what this Crowfoot team was all about. They saw it all as our Indian boys trounced the boys from the East 6-4. Gleichen was the next victim for the big gun.

On Jan. 21 Gleichen arrived at Crowfoot School. Mr. Stoth had a line from Old Sun plus the best he could find in the Cluny dorm. He had found the clue of Crowfoot victories and was trying to play them out. It didn't work because he found out that he could only have six men on the ice at one time. The outcome of all his efforts were drastic as they bowed to a 6-3 defeat.

Now it's the play-offs. Our Juvenile line plays Bassano and our Midgets meet with Gleichen. Let's hope that our stars continue to shine and one day become professional players.

Matthew Many Guns.

## Quebec Plans . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The department of game and fisheries planned to build fur-bearing animal reserves and raising grounds especially for beaver, and move the over-production from one district to the other as the need indicated.

### Improve Selves

"In that way the Indians, living on trapping, would earn enough within the next five to ten years to make a normal living and improve their present condition," a department official said after visiting the area.

The first step being planned by the government, in agreement with federal authorities who have ultimate responsibility for Indians, would include turning the Lake Mistassini reserve into an independent municipality to be locally governed by the tribe's chiefs and his advisers.

The Quebec government then would give the Indian facilities to build modern homes, a small hospital, schools, a church and other social welfare establishments which the remote municipalities enjoy elsewhere in the province.

The natives' municipal administration would come under the provincial cities and towns act, but their local autonomy would be respected through special legislation.

### Brings \$750,000

Fur-bearing animal reserves under provincial jurisdiction in the past year brought more than \$750,000 for some 25,000 beaver skins and \$150,000 from licenses and royalties paid by white trappers alone.

Government experts felt that the province's Indians and white trappers, under a controlled fur-bearing animal raising program could more than triple their income within the next few years.



# When the Sechelts Presented the Passion Play

## Biblical Stories Revived In Tableaux by Indians

by FRANK KELLEY

With the Bavarian peasants again presenting their famed interpretation of the Passion Play at Oberammergau, memory accompanies me back some years to a time when certain Catholic Mission teachers made a laudable attempt to do something of a like pattern on the British Columbia coast, utilizing pupils of the Mission schools to portray the Biblical characters associated with the Story of the Cross.

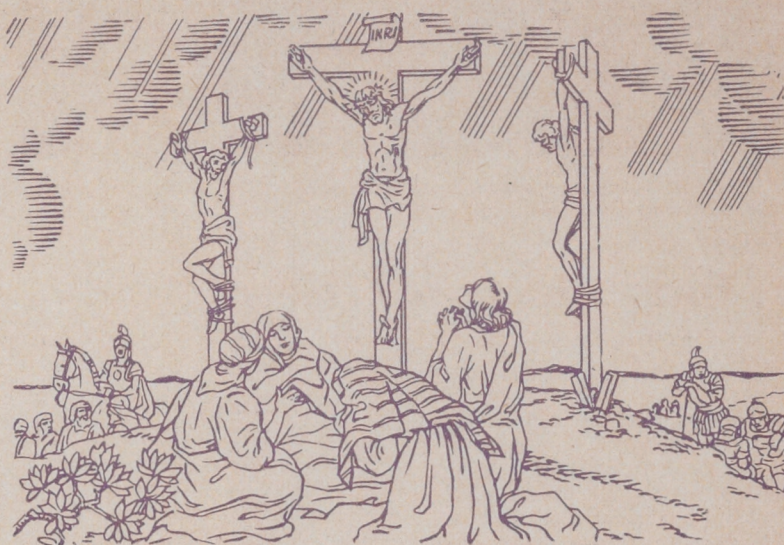
Whether it was the fame acquired by the Europeans or a vogue then enjoying top-billing in places of entertainment across America prompted the ambitious idea is neither here nor there at the moment. The Mission teachers evidently assumed that if their charges could be interested in what they had in mind the idea would have good results and would impress upon interpreter and spectator alike the lessons they taught more dramatically than any words of mouth they could employ in telling them.

### CURB ON RITUALS

When the idea was conceived, it was about the time that Canadian authorities curbed certain performances considered anything but conducive to the general welfare of the country's wards. Abolition of those old rituals proved far from popular with the natives. Dearly loving participation in the ceremonial dances and bits of pagantry, in more or less continuous production and handed down from generation to generation of eager interpreters, both old and young resented the order of the Indian Department.

Natural artists in pantomime, the Coast natives had always portrayed the roles of legendary Indian characters with that touch of sincerity in interpretation. It was not at all difficult for the priests to enroll those selected to carry out a venture into the realm of make-believe.

Proposed to the head of the diocese, Bishop Dontenwill, he gave the idea his blessing. It was agreed that certain tableaux, illustrating Bible



incidents, should be presented in connection with the following year's celebration, set for Skwa, near Chilliwack, in the fertile valley of the Fraser, with Sechelts tutored by Father Cherouse, as the principals.

### WEEK IN JUNE

When that memorable week of June drew near, it had already been well known that a certain group from a Coast Indian village would be participating in an ambitious program under the white man's auspices. This new departure would implement regular religious ceremonies of the Church. It had the effect desired—to attract, in addition to the villagers taking part in the various parades and pageants, many detached natives who were intrigued with promises of colorful pageantry and a bit of feasting.

Many unattached natives were willing to be entertained. The advance stories, passed from village to village had been "in the news" for some months when the contingents began to gather and erect their "sail-houses" (tents) along the fringe of cottonwoods close to the river bank. Spectators who saw the spectacles that week estimated there were all to 3,000 Tillicums present.

### OF MANY TRIBES

Among them were natives from the upper reaches of the river—Tulameens, Shuswaps, Lillooets and Thompsons; from Burrard Inlet and Howe Sound were Squamish; from

Vancouver Island were Cowichans; Lummies of the Washington islands in Gulf waters; and Sechelts from up coast. All were keyed up for great things as they arrived and marked the decorations the Stalos had lavishly displayed for the occasion.

All the groups were posed in appropriate costumes and with well authenticated properties to round out the scenes, the great procession, in two lines and in itself could be really described as a colorful picture as it moved slowly in front of the many groups.

Led by chieftains bearing light crosses and with a number of bands at intervals in line, there were aged men and women marchers, young men and young women bearing babes strapped to their backs in baskets. As it moved along, the priests interpreted the story the "pictures" represented to the accompaniment of many voices intoning "O Cross, Our Only Hope". It took more than three hours of posing, spectators affirmed, before the last of the chanting procession had heard the final chapter of the Cross related by the Mission Fathers.

(Daily Colonist, Victoria)

Your editor was honoured as a guest lecturer of the Manitoba Historical Society on Feb. 27. He chose as the topic of his lecture: "The Sioux Indians in Manitoba," affirming that "We have lost nothing to them, and the pioneers did themselves credit in accepting them after their flight from Minnesota in 1863-4."

## + LIVING WITH THE CHURCH +

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18: Palm Sunday.** The priest reads the Passion of Our Lord at Mass; read it over for yourself and regret your past sins. Palms are blessed today; take them home and place them over the Crucifix which should be in every Christian home.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22: Holy Thursday.** On this day Our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist. If there is Mass in your church do not fail to attend and to receive Holy Communion. Spend some time in adoring the Blessed Sacrament.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 23: Good Friday.** The remembrance of Christ's death for mankind. You should not work or trap today, but spend the day in silence and prayer.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24.** Have you ever attended the glorious Mass of that day? If the Missionary is at your chapel on that day do not miss the ceremonies! Lenten fast ends at noon today.

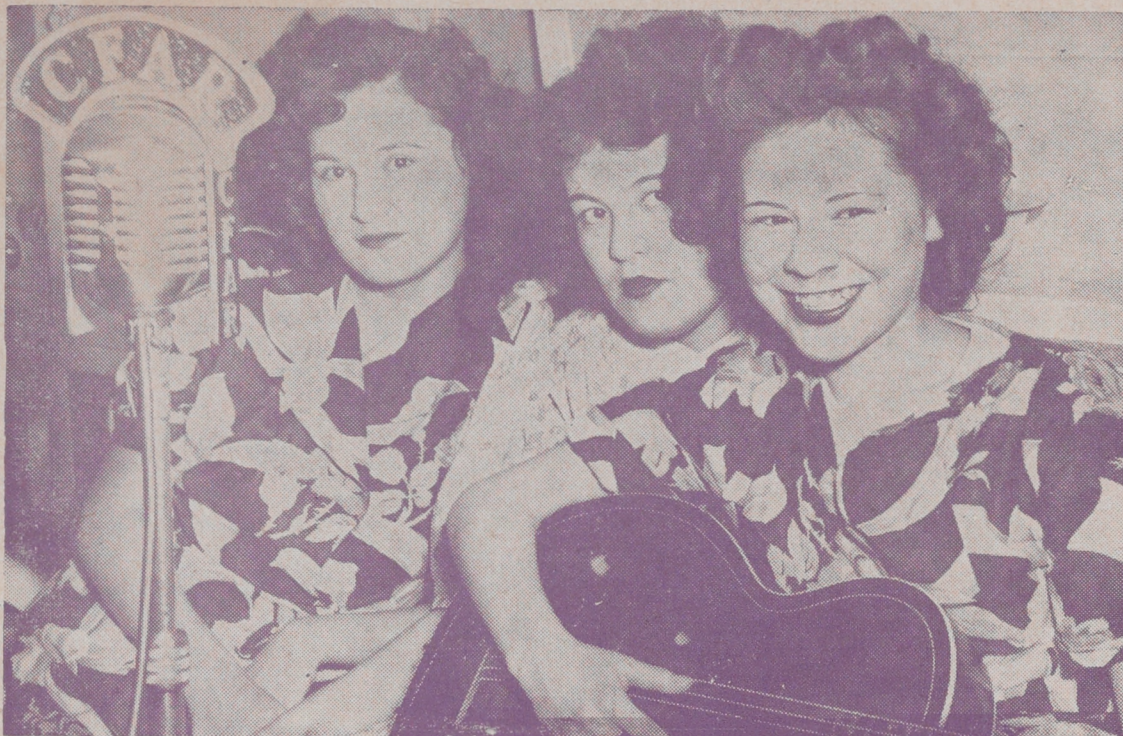
**SUNDAY, MARCH 24: Easter Sunday.** The Resurrection of Our Lord. — A Joyous Easter to you! — Have you done your Easter duties? Why delay in fulfilling this important obligation? Rejoice with Christ and pray that you may join Him in heaven on the day of your death.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 1: Low Sunday.** Today's Gospel explains the institution of the Sacrament of Penance.

**MONDAY, APRIL 2: The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Transferred from March 25th. Honour Mary through a fervent communion.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 3: The Feast of St. Joseph** (transferred from March 19). While this is not a holiday of obligation attend Mass, if possible, in honour of this great Saint.





Regina Leader Post

**NORTHERN BROADCAST:** These three winsome misses — all patients in the Clearwater Lake Sanitarium for Indians and Eskimos 18 miles north of The Pas, Man., — are helping to spread cheer and entertainment across the lonesome northland. Radio station CFAR, Flin Flon, brought its travelling microphone to the sanitarium to pick up the broadcast for its listeners.

## How Would You Feel?

"I feel like shooting someone. Why? Because my children have been scattered in three different sanatoria: Bella (now dead) in Fort William, Liza in Dynevor, and Michel in Brandon.

"I called for Liza in a hospital two miles south of Selkirk and found out she was four miles north of the town. At Brandon I was sent out at 4 p.m., and, as I had no place to go, I was advised to try the jail. So I just roamed here and there with my wife in the cold night. We missed the bus, because I did not know one had to go around the building for it. Now my wife is tired and sick. I am getting sick, too."

So spoke John B. Achneepineskum, who, with his wife Mary KaNepeshiwit, came by to see his daughter Setadawas, a new pupil in McIntosh school. He lives 571 miles east of Winnipeg near Pagwa River on the Nakina-Hearst line, knows no English, and spent all his money to visit his sick children whom he had not seen for two years.

"I hear there is a Catholic sanatorium near Winnipeg," he added. "My children are Catholics, as myself. Why don't they send them all together in that sanatorium? We were assured by the Minister of Health that we could choose our hospital. I never chose Dynevor nor Brandon.... How would the officials feel if their son or daughter was sent far away from them, where they could not see their dear one for many long months?..."

## THE COUNCIL FIRE

by CHIEF SITTING-STONE  
(Vermillion Bay, Ont.)

### Friends!

It is now many moons since I visited with you. Some of you may not remember me but I wrote in the Record long before it became the classy publication it is now. I miss many familiar names of former contributors and I wonder what became of them.

We used to have a Council Fire, but as I cannot find it, I will just sit down on the floor, lean against the wall and fill my old stone pipe. My old bones are beginning to creak at every joint; old age is catching up with me at last. Well, I hope to be young and strong again... in the happy hunting grounds...

I want to discuss the meaning of our name "Anishinabeg" as we Saulteux, or Ojibways call ourselves. The word has several meanings. According to my ancestors, it means "worthless" ("anisha" — useless, "nabeg" — men). We were not always on friendly terms with the Crees, our brothers, and they might have given us this name in derision. Again the word can mean "hungry men", as "anish" means hunting or working without eating.

But the true meaning is "worthless men" because we consider ourselves the lowest of all creatures in the eyes of our Creator. Humility is the first lesson taught our children.

My people must have survived pretty well since our tongue is the most widely spoken native language in Canada; we hear it as far West as Alberta, as far North as the Eskimo country,

as far South as Iowa. Once, in Ottawa, I conversed with the Algonquins of Northern Quebec and I understood nearly every word. There are, of course, many Algonquin dialects, but a common mother tongue.

We were very numerous at one time, but we were decimated by imported diseases of the white man, specially smallpox which killed many of our people long, long ago.

Well, children, I must be getting on home to my wigwam. May the Great Spirit bless you all!

## CHIEF VISITS WHITEFISH BAY

At Whitefish Bay School, Sioux Narrows, every Monday morning is Visitors' Day. Chief Peter Joseph was among the first to take advantage of this opportunity of calling on the teachers and pupils. He was obviously impressed as he observed the Sr. boys and girls participating by suggestions, discussions, voting, etc., in the actual formulation of rules

## New Act...

(Continued from Page 1)

**livestock holdings without supervision. Indians cannot dispose of holdings now without consent of the department.**

### Compensation

Mr. Wm. Bryce (MLA) spoke during the debate on the introduction of a bill to provide a new charter for Canada's Indians.

Indian children should be educated in the same manner as white children, he urged. The residential schools should be retained, but when Indians left those schools they should not be sent back to reserves but given vocational training to take care of them until they were 21. Then they would be able to take their place among the white people.

### Higgins and Browne Defend Church Rights in Education

During the debate which followed reading of the new Bill G. F. Higgins (PC) submitted that the proposed bill should guarantee the right to establish denominational schools, thereby granting freedom for each denomination in its endeavours toward spiritual achievements, and freedom of conscience of the individual for whom religious instructions are intended.

W. J. Browne (PC, St. John's West) made a brilliant apology for the missionary action among the Indian peoples, he recalled the superiority of religious education over lay teaching and asserted the Church's right and competency in educational matters. He denied R. R. Knight (CCF, Saskatoon) contention that the Indians desired neutral schools and to divorce religious training from the education of their children.

No one in the House raised his voice to defend the cause of godless education after Mr. Browne's brilliant apology. Both champions of the Church are M.P.'s representing Newfoundland constituencies.

and policy with regard to the running of their new school.

The Chief found that these young people take their personal responsibilities very seriously. They feel that each morning they are reporting to a job, the all-important one of becoming good, democratic citizens in the best country in the world.

All were honoured by the Chief's visit. The Junior were proud too that he took the trouble to examine the specially fine seat work they had done that morning.